

CAPSULE SUMMARY  
15508 Hall Road (PG: 74A-28)  
Prince George's County, Maryland

Built between 1915 and 1920, this roadside store was built on farmland owned by the residents of the nearby house at 15500 Hall Road. Architecturally, it is typical of small-scale late-19<sup>th</sup> and early-20<sup>th</sup> century vernacular commercial buildings built in rural areas. This building's location on a farm adjacent to the Baltimore and Potomac rail line illustrates the importance of the railroad in the growth and development in Prince George's County during the late-19<sup>th</sup> century, and also the continued importance of agriculture to the local economy during the same period.

The commercial building at 15508 Hall Road is located on the northeast side of the road, to the west of railroad tracks. This vernacular wood frame building is one story tall and three bays wide. Rectangular in plan, the store rests on a wood pier foundation, and has a one-bay rear wood frame addition. The façade has brick facing, the side walls are clad with board-and-batten siding, and the rear elevation has weatherboard siding. A front gable, corrugated sheet metal roof covers the building. A central interior flue pipe projects through the peak of the roof, and an exterior end concrete block flue pipe has been added to the northwest elevation, on the rear addition.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. PG: 74A-28

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1. Name of Property

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historic name \_\_\_\_\_

common/other name \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Location

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street & number 15508 Hall Road not for publication \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Bowie vicinity \_\_\_\_\_ state Maryland code MD

county Prince George's County code 33 zip code 20716

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification

N/A

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4. National Park Service Certification

N/A

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

- ☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing      Noncontributing

|          |          |            |
|----------|----------|------------|
| <u>1</u> | <u>0</u> | buildings  |
| <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | sites      |
| <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | structures |
| <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | objects    |
| <u>1</u> | <u>0</u> | Total      |

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Listing \_\_\_\_\_

No X

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15508 Hall Road  
Prince George's County, Maryland

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: COMMERCE/TRADE Sub: Department Store  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: VACANT/NOT IN USE Sub: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Vernacular  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Pier: Wood  
Roof Gable: Corrugated Sheet Metal  
Walls Frame: Board-and-Batten  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

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8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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15508 Hall Road  
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=====  
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1915-1950  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates 1915-1920  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation Undefined  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Charles County Land and Will Records. Charles County Courthouse and the Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland.

Rivoire, J. Richard. *Homeplaces: Traditional Domestic Architecture of Charles County, Maryland*. Crownsville, MD: Maryland Historical Trust, 1990.

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 17.01 acres

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property at 15508 Hall Road is designated as Parcel 5, Grid B1 as indicated on Map 70.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The building at 15508 Hall Road has historically been associated with Parcel 5 since its construction in circa 1920.

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title R. Weidlich and C. Novelli, Architectural Historians  
organization EHT Traceries, Inc. date July 8, 1999  
street & number 5420 Western Avenue telephone 301/656-5283  
city or town Chevy Chase state MD zip code 20815

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12. Property Owner

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name Jean C. Jones  
street & number 15500 Hall Road telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Bowie state MD zip code 20716

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG: 74A-28

Section 7 Page 1

15508 Hall Road  
name of property  
Prince George's County, MD  
county and state

=====

The commercial building at 15508 Hall Road is located on the northeast side of the road, to the west of railroad tracks. The lot is level, grassy, and has a gravel driveway. Built between 1915 and 1920, this vernacular wood frame building appears to have been a general store. It is one story tall and three bays wide. Rectangular in plan, the store rests on a wood pier foundation, and has a one-bay rear wood frame addition. The façade has brick facing, the side walls are clad with board-and-batten siding, and the rear elevation has weatherboard siding. A front gable, corrugated sheet metal roof covers the building. A central interior flue pipe projects through the peak of the roof, and an exterior end concrete block flue pipe has been added to the northwest elevation, on the rear addition.

**EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION:**

The façade, the southwest elevation of the building, is three bays wide, and features a centered entry with a single-leaf wood slab door and a 1-light transom. On each side of the door is a fixed 1-light wood replacement window. These have replaced larger display windows, and the leftover space has been infilled with brick. Above the two windows are two 2-light transoms. The front gable contains a window opening which has been infilled with plywood. A flat, three-bay porch roof is positioned above the door and flanking windows. While it has a cornice molding around the edge, it has no supports.

The southeast elevation is marked by two 1/1 metal replacement windows, a 6/6 wood window, and a single-leaf wood slab door on the rear addition. The rear, or northeast, elevation has a 8/8 wood window in the rear gable. The northwest elevation contains two 1/1 metal replacement windows and an 8/4 wood window.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Section 8 Page 1

15508 Hall Road  
name of property  
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=====

Built between 1915 and 1920, this roadside store was built on farmland owned by the residents of the nearby house at 15500 Hall Road. Architecturally, it is typical of small-scale late-19<sup>th</sup> and early-20<sup>th</sup> century vernacular commercial buildings built in rural areas. This building's location on a farm adjacent to the Baltimore and Potomac rail line illustrates the importance of the railroad in the growth and development in Prince George's County during the late-19<sup>th</sup> century, and also the continued importance of agriculture to the local economy during the same period.

Buildings of this type were most likely adaptations of simple dwelling and outbuilding forms. Often of frame construction and one to two-stories tall, these buildings were built to serve specific roadside functions such as roadside shops and stands. In two-story structures, the top story provided living space for the proprietor. These buildings usually had front-gable or parapeted flat roofs, and typically featured a large display window and a sign prominently featured over the entrance. Decorative features were few, predominantly limited to a transom over the door and decorative signs over the entrance or in front of the store. The front-gabled orientation of this building, together with its display windows and transoms tie it to this commercial vernacular building tradition.

Following the Civil War and the demise of the plantation system, farm size in Prince George's County slowly decreased. While the average farm size decreased from 263 acres in 1860 to 159 acres in 1880 and 104 acres in 1910, the number of farms in the county increased from 800 in 1860 to approximately 2,400 by 1900. Tenant farming and sharecropping were also practiced, but the availability of credit placed a greater proportion of Maryland's farmland under independent ownership than in other former slave states. While tobacco continued to serve as a major cash crop, southern Maryland farmers, especially those nearer the urban markets of Washington and Baltimore, began diversifying and produced more crops, such as grains and potatoes, for consumption in the cities. The opening of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad in 1873 revitalized the practice of agriculture in southern Maryland. Beginning in 1873, the railroad operated a freight train to Baltimore once a week to carry local produce. In the 1880s, land values in southern Maryland rose rapidly in response to increased profits from agriculture. The Baltimore and Potomac Railroad, therefore, was responsible for agricultural prosperity during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.



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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Section 8 Page 2

15508 Hall Road  
name of property  
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county and state

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National Register Evaluation:

The commercial building at 15508 Hall Road is not eligible due to the fact that it does not meet National Register Criteria A, B, C, or D. Preliminary research has not revealed any association between the building and events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history (Criterion A) or the lives of persons significant in our past (Criterion B). Although the building provides an example of vernacular rural architecture, it is neither unusual nor distinguished; it does not represent the work of a master or display high artistic merit (Criterion C). There is no evidence that the property is likely to yield information important in history or prehistory (Criterion D). Thus, the property is not National Register-eligible.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_ Not Recommended X

Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Review, OPS: *[Signature]* ✓ Date: 11/4/09

Reviewer, NR Program: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Period (s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)  
Modern Period (1930-present)

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):

Architecture, Landscape, and  
Community Planning  
Economic

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function (s): COMMERCE/TRADE/Specialty Store

Known Design Source: Unknown

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
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Inventory No. PG: 74A-28

15508 Hall Road  
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=====  
Chain of Title:

Parcel 1

April 10, 1877: Richard S. and Elizabeth S. Hill to Richard  
Clarke Duvall  
Land Records of Prince George's County  
Liber HB 12 Folio 240

April 13, 1884: Richard Clarke Duvall and Alice M. Duvall to  
Henry Clay Hopkins  
Land Records of Prince George's County  
Liber JWB 3 Folio 237

December 2, 1898: Elizabeth Hill, deceased, to Richard S. and Ada  
M. Hill, Frank W. and Grace C. Hill, and  
Catherine S. Hill  
Will Records of Prince George's County  
Liber JB3 Folio 485

Parcel 2

December 3, 1898: Richard S. and Ada M. Hill, and Catherine S.  
Hill to Henry Clay Hopkins  
Land Records of Prince George's County  
Liber JB4 Folio 199

Parcels 1 and 2

December 27, 1923: Henry Clay Hopkins and Ella I. Hopkins to  
William Curtis Hopkins  
Land Records of Prince George's County  
Liber 204 Folio 119

December 1, 1930: William Curtis Hopkins to Hannah F. and William  
Curtis Hopkins  
Land Records of Prince George's County  
Liber 363 Folio 191

February 21, 1935: Hannah F. and William Curtis Hopkins to Michael  
T. Wyvill  
Land Records of Prince George's County  
Liber 407 Folio 131

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

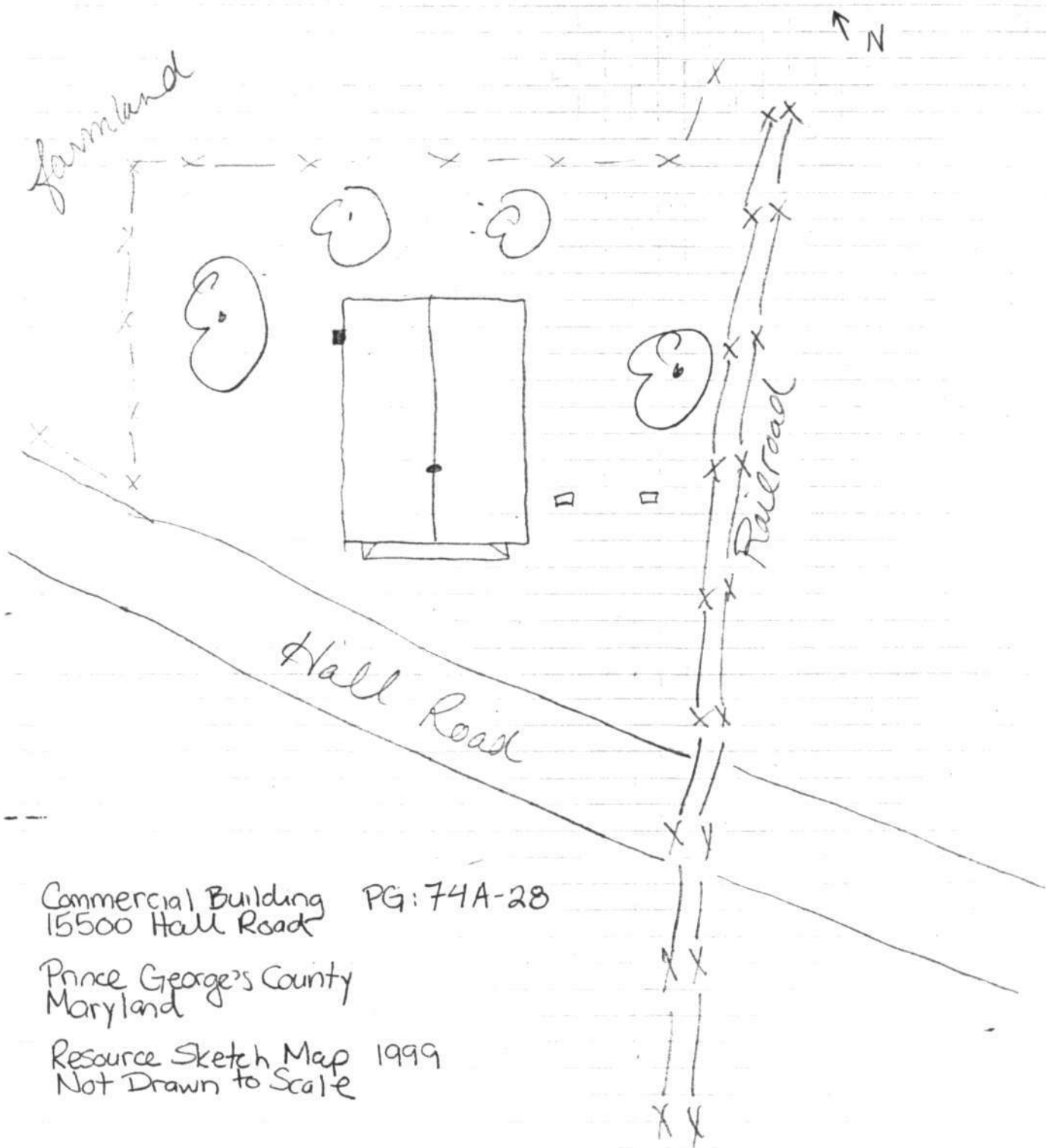
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=====

February 21, 1935: Michael T. Wyvill to William Curtis and Hannah  
F. Hopkins  
Land Records of Prince George's County  
Liber 407 Folio 133

March 13, 1978: Roland E. Hopkins, William S. Hopkins, Holmes  
C. Hopkins, and David D. Hopkins to Jean C.  
Jones  
Land Records of Prince George's County  
Liber 4900 Folio 124



Commercial Building PG: 74A-28  
15500 Hall Road

Prince George's County  
Maryland

Resource Sketch Map 1999  
Not Drawn to Scale

- 0 HALL ROAD  
PG: 74A-26
- 15501 HALL ROAD  
PG: 74A-27
- COMMERCIAL BUILDING,  
15508 HALL ROAD  
PG: 74A-28
- 105 CENTRAL AVENUE  
PG: 74B-27
- 104 CENTRAL AVENUE  
PG: 74B-26
- 180 CRAIN HIGHWAY, SE  
PG: 74B-28
- 163 CRAIN HIGHWAY, SW  
PG: 74A-29



Bowie USGS Quad  
↑





PG:74A-28

COMMERCIAL BUILDING, 15508 HALL ROAD  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SATPO

southwest elevation

1 of 4





PG:74A-28

COMMERCIAL BUILDING, 15508 HALL ROAD  
PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MD  
TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

South corner

2 of 4



PG:74H-28

COMMERCIAL BUILDING, 15500 HALL ROAD  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPD

east corner

3 of 4



PG: 71A-28

COMMERCIAL BUILDING, 15500 HALL ROAD

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

northwest elevation

4 of 4